Encyclopaedia Aristasiana

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Pigeon-holing

Pigeon-holing is the common Tellurian practice of attempting to place Aristasia into Tellurian categories.

Examples include:

- Calling Aristasia "an S/M organisation" (because of disciplinary practices within the Empire that were once widely publicised).
- Calling Aristasians "pagans", "neo-pagans" or "witches" (because the Aristasian religion is not Christian or one of the major Tellurian religions and sees God in feminine terms).
- Calling Aristasia "feminist" (based on its feminine orientation).
- Calling Aristasia a "racialist" or "racist" organisation (based on certain past attempts at defamation by politically-motivated journalists).
- Attempting to fit Aristasia into various right- or left-wing categories of Tellurian politics.

These categorisations are sometimes made with malicious intentions and sometimes are simply a matter of mental laziness or Tellurian ethnocentricity. Western Tellurians like to categorise everything they encounter in terms of their own experience. Aristasia is a completely different world. Learning to understand it is not accomplished with an hour's browsing over Aristasian material. It takes time, study and empathy to understand fully, as does any new and different culture. Most Tellurian outsiders do not want to make this effort, but prefer to pretend that Aristasia is simply

something from their world that they already know about. They have safe, comfortable little boxes for filing such things away.

There is a Tellurian story from Northern Ireland which helps to clarify this mentality.

A young man was walking down a mean street late at night in Belfast when he was accosted by a gang of rough-looking youths.

"Are ye a Cat or a Dog (Catholic or Protestant)?" demanded the leader of the gang.

The young man replied rather nervously: "I am Jewish."

The leader of the gang said "Yeah, yeah. But are ye a Cat-Jew or a Dog-Jew?"

The point of this story is that the rough youths could not conceive of anything that actually fell outside their own narrow categories.

It is not only the *uneducated* Tellurian who thinks this way.

See Also

Fallacy of Tellurian Models

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